

THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST VENEREAL DISEASE IN MEXICO*

BY

R. BUSTILLOS MENDEZ

Mexico 2, D.F.

At the General Assembly of the International Union against the Venereal Diseases and the Treponematoses held in Stockholm in 1957, it was resolved "that the venereal diseases, even though showing marked regression in a large number of countries, still remain capable of a dangerous extension (of rapid and widespread dissemination if control measures break down)" and it was also noted that in some countries the venereal diseases had not yet been brought under control.

In the United States of America, the Association of State and Territorial Health Officers, the American Venereal Disease Association, and the American Social Hygiene Association observed that during 1958 the number of states and cities reporting an increased incidence of venereal disease among teenagers had mounted steadily for 5 years and the organizations recommended an increase of Federal appropriations to control these diseases ("Today's V.D. Control Problem", 1959). Furthermore, in the United States, gonorrhoea is the third and syphilis the fourth most prevalent communicable disease.

It is therefore imperative that every country should co-operate in the fight against the venereal diseases and that adequate funds be made available for this purpose, since adequate V.D. control requires the services of venereologists, nurses, investigators, laboratory technicians, record analysts, health educators, administrative and clerical personnel, social workers, and research workers.

In the past the importance of these facts has been underestimated in Mexico and the members of the Mexican Branch of the I.U.V.D.T. have now decided to put forward the following resolutions, which illustrate the course which they propose to follow in their country:

(1) Venereology should be regarded as an indispensable specialty and should be given close attention in universities and medical schools.

(2) An efficient V.D. education campaign should aim at instructing the public, particularly teenagers, on the dangers of venereal infection, the urgency of

immediate medical care, V.D. prophylaxis, and contact-tracing. It should be made compulsory for all venereologists to support and participate in the programme of education.

(3) Realizing that an educational campaign which merely gives information on the venereal diseases is not the complete answer to V.D. control, the Mexican Branch recommends that it should be reinforced by research on sex behaviour.

(4) The National Health Service should give more attention to the provision of medical facilities for the treatment of venereal disease.

(5) The International Union against the Venereal Diseases and the Treponematoses is asked to submit these resolutions to the United Nations and World Health Organization and to ask for their support in implementing them.

La campagne antivénérienne au Mexique

Résumé

La Branche Mexicaine de l'Union Internationale contre les Maladies Vénériennes et les Tréponématoses présente ci-dessous des résolutions, indiquant la ligne de conduite qu'elle a l'intention d'adopter.

(1) La vénéréologie doit être regardée comme une spécialité indispensable et elle mérite une attention soutenue aux universités et écoles de médecine.

(2) Une campagne efficace d'éducation antivénérienne doit aspirer à l'instruction du public, particulièrement des jeunes gens, sur les dangers de l'infection vénérienne, l'urgence du traitement immédiat, la prévention et le dépistage des contacts. Il devrait être obligatoire pour tous les vénéréologues de supporter le programme d'éducation et d'y participer.

(3) Réalisant qu'une campagne éducative purement informative sur les maladies vénériennes n'offre pas une solution complète du problème vénérien, la Branche Mexicaine recommande qu'elle soit renforcée par des recherches sur la conduite sexuelle.

(4) Le Service National de la Santé doit prêter une plus grande attention à la fourniture des facilités médicales pour le traitement des maladies vénériennes.

(5) On prie l'Union Internationale contre les Maladies Vénériennes et les Tréponématoses de soumettre ces résolutions aux Nations Unies et à l'Organisation Mondiale de la Santé, en demandant leur aide pour les rendre effectives.

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